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Office of University Communications

February 5, 2013

Documentary Offers GWU Students a Look at the Corrupt Cocoa Industry

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. –The Gardner-Webb University Office of Community Engagement will present a screening of the documentary "Dark Side of Chocolate" on Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. in the Time Warner Cable Movie Theatre located in the Tucker Student Center.

The documentary follows a team of journalists as they investigate the impacts human trafficking and child labor on the Ivory Coast of Africa. According to Corp Watch, the cocoa plantations in Ghana and the Ivory Coast fuel the worldwide chocolate industry as they provide 80% of the world with chocolate. Featuring hidden camera footage that shows the true world of cocoa plantations, the documentary includes interviews with proponents and opponents of these alleged practices of exploiting and the use of slave trading of African children to harvest chocolate.

Educating students that the cocoa they eat in popular chocolates often involves the mistreatment of children is a main focus of this screening. "Students should realize that every dollar that they spend really can impact the world," said Stephanie Capps, Gardner-Webb University's Community Engagement Coordinator. "When they choose to buy Hershey's or Nestle, they are supporting a system that enslaves children everyday. There are other options out there and they should become educated about what goes on in the world."

Free fairly-traded chocolate will be available for those who attend. For more information on this event, contact Stephanie Capps at 704-406-2135.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University seeks a higher ground in higher education; one that embraces faith and intellectual freedom, balances conviction with compassion, and inspires in students a love of learning, service and leadership.